

# COALITION OF FAMILIES OF KOREAN & COLD WAR POW/MIAS



**Spring Edition**

**2010**

## MISSION

The Coalition of Families promotes the fullest possible accounting for American servicemen who remain missing from the Korean and Cold Wars.

## AGENDA

Our members are all families of the missing men. Together, we not only assist each other in our individual searches for information, but we help shape the nature and extent of the U.S. Government's effort to account, in a timely manner, for our missing servicemen.



*Korean War Memorial  
Washington, D.C.*

## ISSUES

### Americans Left In Captivity

#### Live Sightings

\* Resolution of reports that American servicemen have been seen in North Korea, China, and the former Soviet Union during the decades following the Korean/Cold Wars

#### Last Seen Alive

\* Resolution of reports that American POWs were seen alive during the Korean war then never seen again

#### Known To Be Alive

\* Resolution of reports that American prisoners of war were known to be alive at the end of the Korean War but never repatriated



### Archival Research

#### Declassification

\* Fulfillment of the transparency intended in Executive Order 12958  
\* Establishment of an unbiased review committee with declassification authority

#### Punch Bowl Files

\* Removal of *working medical* designation

#### China's PLA Korean War Archives

\* Expansion of the U.S./China agreement and hastening the volume of records released

#### U.S./Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

\* Restoration of the full committee  
\* Expansion of archival research, follow up investigations and witness interviews

### Witness Interviews, Remains Recovery and Identification

#### Resumption of Joint Field Operations in North Korea

\* Expanded aircraft loss investigations

#### Identification of Korean War remains interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific – Hawaii (Punchbowl)

#### Defense Authorization Act

\* Significantly increased number of remains recovered and identified each year  
\* Increased appropriations

### Outreach

#### Representation and support for the families of missing servicemen

\* Keeping families informed of the issues

#### Promote awareness of the POW/MIA issue

\* Locate families of the missing men  
\* Promote donation of DNA samples among the families  
\* Informing the public at large

## FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

- \* *The President's Corner*
- \* *John Zimmerlee / Research*
- \* *Monthly Review / Action Alert*
- \* *Commentary*
- \* *Membership/Renewal Information*
- \* *St.. Louis—Annual Government Briefing*

## President's Corner



**Rick Downes**

Not too long ago, I found myself to be president of the *Coalition*. It has been on-the-job-training since then, with a lengthy learning curve. The desk chair groans as I come through the door each evening. I wake up to incomprehensible notes scribbled in the middle

of the night. Long gone are days of having nothing to do.

The most intriguing undertaking has been deciding exactly what it means to *be* president of the *Coalition*. Some responsibilities, like coordinating government meetings and membership receptions, tap you on the shoulder and explain themselves. Others, this edition of the newsletter especially, run and hide, mocking every effort made to get them done on time. Somewhere in between lay timeless obligations, like mastering our membership database, fundraising, renovating the website, and developing an official agenda.

*Advocacy. Outreach. Administration.*

Each facet of the *Coalition's* agenda fits neatly into one of these three themes. There's research too, but John Z. takes good care there. Threads of all these themes run throughout the newsletter and on the website. They will develop and expand as we focus and make our voice louder.

The real challenge is to bring a sense of urgency to the POW/MIA issue. Closure for thousands of the missing men, and their families, is tantalizingly close. Yet, the pace of the accounting effort suggests that we have all the time in the world. We don't.

So this president will be enticing, prying, and luring time from other people's lives, while nipping haphazardly at the heels of anyone who can hasten and move the mission forward.

*Advocacy. Outreach. Administration.*

And deciphering those notes, scribbled in the middle of the night, littering the floor beside the bed each morning.

*Rick Downes*

## Coalition Board of Directors



**John Zimmerlee, Robin Piacine, Donna Knox,  
Rick Downes**

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**Other active volunteers:**

**Belinda Eigen, Newsletter Co-Editor; Richard Rosell,  
Fundraising Chairman; Dru Knox, Webmaster**

*(A Family Outreach co-chair position has been created. Responsibilities will be shared between volunteers to allow for flexibility. Please call and join us.)*

## Coalition Membership/Renewal

The membership/renewal donation of \$20.00 is tax deductible and supports, among other expenses, the printing and mailing of these newsletters. The latter is becoming increasingly expensive. So if email works for your family, send it along and we'll add you to the email list.

A renewal form is located on page seven. Please use it to keep your contact information current, as well. Whether moving to a new home or changing email addresses, include the *Coalition* and the military service casualty offices in your updating.

Our challenge is to move the accounting effort forward while the people who care most about the missing men can find closure. Please join us.

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## Monthly Review & Action Alert

The *Coalition's* first *Monthly Review & Action Alert* was emailed to family members in December. These periodic updates will summarize noteworthy developments within the POW/MIA issue and promote an action to support the *Coalition's* agenda.

The first Action Alert focused on returning the U.S. / Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs to a full working body. The Joint Commission is a vital tool in learning the fate of American servicemen taken to the former Soviet Union during the Korean War.

The Russian side of the commission walked away in 2005. While progress to restore the commission has been made, the Russians have not fully committed.

In the Action Alert, family members were encouraged to copy their senators on a letter\* the *Coalition* sent to General James Jones, President Obama's national security advisor. This past November, General Jones met with the American chairman of the Joint Commission, General Fogel-son, about what needs to be done to

restore the commission to working status. The letter shares our hope that the President take on the responsibility for reinvigorating the commission.

Anyone who did not receive the *Monthly Review & Action Alert* can send an email address to [coalitionof-families@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionof-families@gmail.com). We will include you in future mailings. One of our goals is to speed up the accounting process. Each action we take will be creating a louder voice for the families and the missing men. We hope you will join us in future actions.

### Letter to General Jones \*

General James Jones  
National Security Advisor  
The White House  
Re: U.S. Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

Dear General Jones:

It is our understanding that you will be meeting with President Obama to discuss the reinvigoration of the U.S. / Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. As president of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs, I urge you to convey a message of urgency and determination.

Since its creation in 1992, the Joint Commission has provided an invaluable service to the families of missing American servicemen; to the American community; and indeed to the missing men themselves. The Joint Commission is the sole entity that devotes itself to investigating reports that Americans serving in Korea and during the Cold War were taken to the Soviet Union and never returned.

Since 2005 the Joint Commission has floundered. The reasons are undoubtedly political. The consequences are unquestionably human. Without the Joint Commission, and the impressive inroads that it has carved into the difficult accounting mission, the hopes of thousands of American families may be squandered. We look to the Joint Commission, and its support directorate, to forge the gap between what used to be and answers that lie ahead.

The families of men who remain missing these many decades need answers. We implore you to take our mission to the President and to communicate our request that he commit both his personal and political prowess to the task of reconstituting the Russian side of the Joint Commission. At this point it has become disturbingly clear that nothing short of his personal dedication will move the Russian government to reinstate its previous efforts to account for missing American servicemen.

Respectfully,

Richard Downes, President

Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs

### Explore for Yourself

The Library of Congress has an online collection of Joint Commission interviews with former Soviet pilots and air defense crewmen who fought in the Korean War, prisoners from the Soviet Gulags during the Korean and Cold War eras, and more. These interviews discuss Russian shoot downs and encounters with captured American servicemen. This collection represents only a portion of the valuable work the Joint Commission has already done and needs to continue.

The link to these interviews is <http://media.causes.com/ribbon/327493>. You can begin by entering a type of aircraft from the era, B-29, B-26, etc., into the search window.

### Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs

House Resolution 111 calls for a Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs that will provide valuable oversight to the accounting effort. Representatives are needed as sponsors for the resolution to come for a vote. A list of sponsors, a sample letter, and further information can be found at the link below. If your representative is not listed then telephone, email or fax and let their office know how much a subcommittee will mean to you. It is an election year, so they will be listening.

<http://www.nationalalliance.org/legis/index.htm>

### Summer 2010 Newsletter

*Some upcoming features:*

- *Coalition's* recent government meetings in D.C.
- An *Action Alert* supporting the resumption of remains recovery operations in North Korea.
- DPMO: Responding to the Defense Authorization Act.
- A tour of JPAC's facilities in Hawaii.
- John Zimmerlee's latest research.
- A preview of the government's 2010 annual briefing. (*August 26-28, Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, VA*)

## Commentary

### A Time Sensitive Issue *by Rick Downes*

Sixty-plus years ago, Berniece Balocca married Clarence Boyle, Jr. He was a flyer, later called up for Korea, who took off on a final mission then never returned. They'd had a son by then. Growing up, Gary Boyle promised his mother that he would solve the mystery of his missing father. Mother and son's search for closure became a life-long bond, a thread between them that went beyond the usual mother and son relationship.



It didn't work out the way they'd hoped. Berniece Boyle passed-on last summer. Her husband's final flight re-

mains a mystery. For families like theirs, the Korean/Cold War POW/MIA issue has become time sensitive. The parents and most siblings of the missing men have passed-on without learning the fate of their loved one. The spouses, children, nieces and nephews are facing the same scenario.

At a time when answers are tantalizingly close, a sense of urgency is missing from the Korean/Cold War accounting effort. We know where thousands lay. Witnesses are still living who know of more. Some of the men may even be alive. Yet, documents that hold so much promise remain cloaked in mystery. Remains recovery operations are stalled by foreign policy. Identification goals project *decades* ahead rather than the immediate future.

The urgency to move these issues forward can only come from the families of the missing men. We are their voice. The better informed we are, the more letters we write, phone calls we make, government updates we attend, the louder will be our voice. It is the families of these men who, by refusing to leave this mission to the next generation, will create a voice loud enough to race the heartbeat of the Korean/Cold War MIA effort and bring the closure so many have sought for so long.



*Berniece and Gary*

## The 944 List *By John Zimmerlee*

During the Korean War, the Communists bragged relentlessly about capturing our men. They published personal information in Chinese newspapers, printed pictures in magazines, and even aired their voices on Peking Radio. Our men were alive, in captivity, and the Chinese wanted everyone to know it!

At the end of the fighting, both sides exchanged prisoners. When the exchange was over, we realized that not all of our known POWs were returned. We formed a list of 944 men that were known to be in communist hands, and our Far East Command demanded their return. There were 610 Army, 312 Air Force, 3 Navy, and 19 Marines mentioned. The list was later published but with some names missing. Still another version followed but with more variations.

The original list was lost and remained a mystery . . . until now. I found it at the National Archives during my November, 2009, visit, and oh what

a find it is! There are names on it that are not on either of the two later lists.

Though Far East Command submitted the original *944 List* to the Communists and demanded their release, the Communists chose to ignore it. Much later, more than half of the names were removed, and a refined list of 450 was resubmitted. No one seems to know the criteria by which men were deleted, but it is assumed that some of the men were believed dead.

#### *How was this known?*

Some of the explanation can be found in the original list, which indicated a 'D' after 239 names; meaning that some of the returning ex-POWs believed them to be dead. About 217 of these names were removed from the original list. The other 22 men were not as convincingly dead or other reports more convincingly indicated that they may be alive. So these names were maintained on the subsequent *450 List*.

An embarrassment in the government's record keeping occurred when it

was discovered that 30 men on the *944 List* had already returned alive in the Big Switch exchange of prisoners. Still another 45 men on the original list were either not missing, or their bodies had already been recovered. That may seem blunderingly stupid, but remember the conditions. There were no computers, databases, or cell phones back then. In fact, there was no way to make instant photocopies. Men with similar names were often confused.

When the fighting stopped, thousands of remains were being removed from the battlefield. Meanwhile, our then president, Eisenhower, had compelling evidence that hundreds of American men had been shipped on trains to Siberia. The primary focus should have been on finding those men. For political reasons, President Eisenhower chose to leave them there and keep the issue a secret.



## Meeting in St. Louis

October's Korean/Cold War annual government briefing went on the road. St. Louis' Hotel Frontenac took us in. Its southern flair provided a relaxed setting. Fall foliage offered a colorful backdrop. Rainfall added drama to the proceedings indoors.

Those proceedings were a familiar format of informative presentations, with enough new developments to interest returning family members. Nearly half the families attending were at their first meeting. The government is promoting the issue nationwide and having success reaching new families. The other side of the coin is that fewer repeat family members came. Not too long ago, so many of us attended a D.C. annual briefing that adjunct meeting rooms were opened to accommodate the overflow. Family members watched the proceedings on monitors!

St. Louis was the first opportunity for all family members to meet the new director of DPMO, Robert Newberry. Mr. Newberry seemed genuinely interested in learning about the issue. He was accessible and appeared to listen with sincerity. He has an extensive



**Robert Newberry**  
DASD

background in the Department of Defense, including an earlier, temporary stint, as DPMO's director. Mr. Newberry's military background includes twenty-six years in the U.S. Air Force, with three combat tours in Southeast Asia.

There was other news:

\* *121 missing men from the Korean War were declared identified (as of October, 2009); their families have closure.*

\* *Spouses and children of the missing are now part of the identification process. Advancements in nuclear DNA research have added the paternal family line to the mitochondrial DNA found in the maternal line.*

\* *Last year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) included a mandate raising the number of annual identifications to 200, for all conflicts, by 2015, and 350 by 2020.*

\* *The fates of 77 missing servicemen from the Cold War are still being investigated.*

\* *John Zimmerlee's research assisted many families in further understanding their loved one's case.*

\* *The Coalition's reception provided family members with another special opportunity to share our common experience.*

Some news was either not so positive or remained unchanged:

\* **Only** 121 missing men from the Korean War were declared identified.

\* *The NDAA mandate raised identifications to **only** 200 annually, for all conflicts, by 2015.*

\* *No remains recovery/research operations had been scheduled for North Korea.*

\* *The Punch Bowl files remain classified.*

\* *The fates of 77 missing servicemen from the Cold War are **still** being investigated.*

The 2010 Annual Government Briefing will be back in D.C. again (August 26-28). The air fare will still be paid by the government. With strong attendance, among new and returning families, we can reach out with one voice to announce that the families of the missing men are ready to fulfill our promise and bring them home, not decades from now, but now! The Coalition is looking forward to another of those overflow meetings. We'll see you there.

### 2010 Family Update and Annual Meetings Schedule

- April 24 - Durham, NC
- May 22 - Bellevue, WA
- August 26-28 - Washington, DC
- \*\*
- September 25 - East Syracuse, NY
- October 23 - Omaha, NE
- November 20 - Burlingame, CA

\*\* *The Korean and Cold War Annual Government Briefings*

## St. Louis: The 944 List and More

At the end of the Korean War, both sides exchanged prisoners. When the exchange was over, we realized that not all of our known POWs were returned. We formed a list of 944 names of men who were known to be in communist hands.

At the time, the *944 List* was considered the hot list of those men *most likely to be found*. When the list was reduced a few years later to 450, the men on the subsequent list were thought *to be still alive*. When it was further reduced to a mere 389, the list was considered to be those *known alive and in captivity*.

At the recent annual DPMO family meeting in St Louis, I was surprised to meet five families whose missing loved-ones are on the 389 list! Since the purpose of these meetings is to update and keep the families informed, I was anxious to find out what the families have

learned about those *known alive and in captivity*.

Would you believe, none of the families had ever been told? There is no mention of the 389 list in their loved one's summary sheet. No mention of the reports where their loved-one's sightings are described. How can this be? How can you not inform the families of well-known documents?

Many of you who attended the annual meeting asked for my help during your one-on-one case discussions with DPMO. You are probably wondering why I didn't show up. My apologies! DPMO felt that my presence at these sessions was disruptive to their program and demanded that I cease helping you during your one-on-one meetings.

My purpose is still to continue helping you however I can. Please email me at [john.zimmerlee@gmail.com](mailto:john.zimmerlee@gmail.com) with what you know about your missing

loved-one. I will respond with what I have found through years of research, including the names of men who went missing at the same time from his unit and any information I have on each of them, including family contacts.

Together, we can...and will get answers!



*John Zimmerlee*

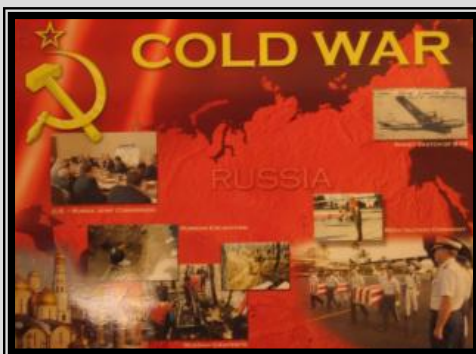
## The Coalition's St. Louis Reception

At the Korea/Cold War Annual Government briefing, St. Louis, Missouri, the *Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs* gathered for support and advocacy. Rick Downes began with a poem to honor the missing of these wars. Members present, with a photo of the missing in hand, shared memories of the lost person which included a sense of emptiness, lack of wholeness, anger about not having the person around. Robin Piacine ended with a poem.

Rick, Donna, Robin and John updated the group on their advocacy work in which the organization is involved. Rick asked for feedback on ending the Korean War since it only ended in an armistice.

The family members were encouraged to share information gathered on

their lost one, since this information may impact other families. Their loved one could have been in the same area, same group, etc. The organization is focused on the loss of all the families. Robin told of her trip to JPAC identification site in Hawaii. The wall in the facility contains the names of those individuals whose remains have been re-



covered and identified. The new research into skull overlays has JPAC asking for pictures of the lost, showing their teeth.

Some attendees encouraged all to contact their congress people to encourage them to assist the researchers searching for remains to get back into North Korea. Some were optimistic that something will happen.

The time together gave the group a chance to hear what the Coalition is doing on their behalf and provide time for people present to share about their loved one. This is one place that people are willing to hear the stories, no matter how long ago the loss.

*Mary Jo Loftus*

<p><b>Remains Identification Developments</b></p>	<p><b>China's Archives</b></p>	
<p>New approaches to identifying remains are still being developed. Advancements in DNA research have added the paternal family line to the mitochondrial readings found in the maternal line. This alternate method eliminates the female (mother's) markers from the child's, leaving the male (father's) reading. Spouses and children of the missing men are now part of the identification process. Please contact your casualty office to contribute your sample. A self-use kit will be mailed to you.</p>	<p>In 2008, U.S. and Chinese officials formalized an agreement authorizing research in Chinese archives on Korean War POW/MIA matters. Chinese archivists have been searching through records of the then People's Volunteer Army (PVA), the Central Military Commission (CMC) and the PLA headquarters during the Korean War. These searches have reportedly uncovered "... over 100 files with leads to U.S. military personnel missing in action". The transfer of these files, however, has been held up while</p>	<p>the two governments work through an amendment to the original agreement that will allow full details of documents given to the U.S. rather than summaries.</p> <p>Details of one report point to a crash site within China where a U.S. bomber crashed in 1950. There is a good chance that remains of the crew can be found there. Before that can be done, however, further arrangements need to be negotiated with the provincial government controlling the area of the crash site.</p>

**Membership / Renewal / Contact Information**

One of John Zimmerlee's greatest frustrations is to uncover research on a missing serviceman then find that the family contact information is no longer current. Whether moving to a new home or changing email addresses, be sure to include the *Coalition* and the military service casualty offices in your updating.

We would like to acknowledge the family members who have renewed your memberships. We would like to give special acknowledgement to family members whose contributions go beyond membership donations: Linda Marie Willis and Elinor Hull for your extraordinary generosity; Belinda Eigen, Suzanne Schilling, Mary Jo Loftus, and Dru Knox for your time and expertise.

We are the families of America's missing servicemen. This bond makes us a family of our own. Working together, we will raise our voice for the missing men and move toward the closure we all seek.



*Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIA's*  
**National Membership Application**



New

Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to missing service member: \_\_\_\_\_

Service members full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Service # \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service/Unit or Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Area of Loss: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Coalition of Families** and send to:  
 Coalition of Families, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 3521, Burbank, CA 91508

## CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>USAF Missing Persons Branch 550 C Street West, Suite 15 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4716 800-531-5501 AFPC.POW.MIA@RANDOLPH.AF.MIL</p>	<p>U.S. Army Attn: AHRC-PDC-R 200 Stovall St Alexandria, VA 22332-0482 800-892-2490 ALTFCM@conus.army.mil</p>	<p>Defense POW/ Missing Personnel Robert Goeke 2400 Defense Pentagon Washington DC 20301-2400 703-699-1100</p>
<p>Navy Personnel Command Casualty Assistance Division POW/MIA Branch (PERS-624) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-6210 800-443-9298 MILL_NavyPOW-MIA@navy.mil</p>	<p>HQ U. S. Marine Corps - MRC 3280 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-5103 800-847-1597 casualty.section@usmc.mil</p>	<p>Coalition of Families Research Director, John Zimmerlee 3342 Brickey Ln Marietta GA 30068-3844 770-565-4420 John.Zimmerlee@gmail.com</p>
<p>Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Attn: Public Affairs Office 310 Worcester Ave. Bldg 45 Hickam AFB, HI 96853-5530 808-448-1934</p>	<p>National Archives II (NARA) 8601 Adelphi Rd College Park, MD 20740-6001 301-837-3510</p>	<p>Military Personnel Records Nat'l Personnel Records Center 9700 Page Ave St Louis MO 63132-5100 314-801-0800</p>
<p>Department of Defense Secretary of Defense Robert Gates 1000 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-1000 Web Site: <a href="http://www.defenselink.mil">www.defenselink.mil</a> Phone: (703) 692-7100 Fax: (703) 697-8339</p>	<p><u>To identify your representatives call:</u> U.S. Main switchboard (202)224-3121 or (202)225-3121 <u>Or visit them online:</u> Senate - <a href="http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm">www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm</a> House of Representatives <a href="https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/">https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/</a></p>	<p>Department of State /Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton 2201 C St., N.W. Washington, DC 20520 Web Site: <a href="http://www.state.gov">www.state.gov</a> Phone: (202) 647-4000 Fax: (202) 647-2283</p>

We're learning something new about our missing men all the time. Please renew your membership and update your contact information. Email addresses are particularly helpful. Thank you.

[John.Zimmerlee@gmail.com](mailto:John.Zimmerlee@gmail.com)

*Return Service Requested*

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